

17 EU countries planning massive offshore wind power

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Over 141 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind energy capacity is built, under construction, consented, or planned in Europe: enough to power 130 million average EU households. These wind farms - representing 35 times more capacity than the just under 4 GW installed today - would provide 13.1% of Europe's total electricity production.

The European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) today published its latest report analysing all existing offshore wind power projects in 17 EU member states, mostly in north-western Europe. New offshore wind farms with a capacity of 5.6 GW are currently under construction in the UK, Germany and Belgium.

"There is huge developer interest in offshore wind energy across Europe", commented Arthouros Zervos, President of EWEA. "Developers, governments and investors realise that offshore wind energy offers the growth and jobs that Europe desperately needs."

169,000 jobs in the EU offshore wind energy sector are expected to be created by 2020, going up to 300,000 by 2030, according to the EWEA report. European companies are currently global leaders, with over 99% of the world's installed offshore capacity in European waters.

Areas for growth in offshore wind energy include turbine and turbine component manufacturing as well as substructures, vessels, electrical infrastructure including high voltage subsea cables, and ports.

However, the new report warns that if the offshore wind energy sector's potential is to be fulfilled in Europe, it is imperative that sufficient levels of financing are brought in by investors. Also crucial are the financing and building of offshore power grids in the northern and Baltic seas, which would enable huge amounts of electricity to be transported to consumers.

For the industry itself, there is a risk of a high-voltage subsea cable shortage in the next few years which has to be addressed urgently, says the report, as well as a possible shortage of trained workers.

"The offshore wind energy sector can replicate the success of the onshore wind technology development, which is now a mainstream source of power competitive with new coal and gas plants, and a major European industry", said Zervos. "However, to ensure this happens, EU-decision-makers need to set ambitious renewable energy targets beyond 2020, invest more in research and develop offshore grid".

The report, '[Wind in our Sails](#)', was released at EWEA OFFSHORE 2011, which is being held in Amsterdam until 1 December. More information: www.ewea.org/offshore2011

Total offshore wind capacity installed, under construction, consented, planned, on 30 June 2011 and size of government concession zones or foreseen future tender zones in MW.

	Online	Under construction	Consented	Planned	Total projects	Size of government concession zones or foreseen future tender zones
Belgium	195	462	750	450	1,857	2,000
Denmark	854	0	418	1,200	2,471	4,600
Finland	26	0	765	3,502	4,294	n/a
Estonia	0	0	1,000	0	1,000	n/a
France	0	0	0	6,000	6,000	6,000
Germany	195	833	8,725	21,493	31,247	8,000
Greece	0	0	0	4,889	4,889	n/a
Ireland	25	0	1,600	2,155	3,780	n/a
Italy	0	0	162	2,538	2,700	n/a
Latvia	0	0	200	0	200	n/a
Malta	0	0	0	95	95	95
Netherlands	247	0	1,792	3,953	5,992	6,000
Norway	2	0	350	11,042	11,394	n/a
Poland	0	0	0	900	900	n/a
Portugal	0	0	0	478	478	n/a
Spain	0	0	0	6,804	6,804	n/a
Sweden	164	0	991	7,124	8,279	n/a
UK	1,586	4,308	588	42,114	48,596	47,000
Total Europe	3,294	5,603	17,341	114,737	140,976	73,695

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